

## HISTORY

The DWI Victim Memorial Sign Program is a grassroots program borne from an idea of two people who had lost family members to crashes on state highways caused by drunk drivers. The Department of Transportation embraced the program as a way to join together with the citizens of this state in the ongoing efforts to combat drunk driving.

The original co-sponsors, Sylvia Cortinas and Nancy McClenny-Walters of Walla Walla had lost family members to crashes caused by drunk drivers. As a result of their presentation to the Transportation Commission, a pilot program was created. This team effort included the Transportation Commission, the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, and the Walla Walla DUI Task Force.

The first sign installations in the state were in Walla Walla County on SR 125 Walla Walla and on SR 12. The McClenny family sponsored a sign for Frank and Emily McClenny who were killed when their family was hit by a drunk driver on July 10, 1988. The Cortinas family sponsored a sign for John Cortinas who died in an alcohol related collision in July of 1993.

This brochure was put together to give families and friends of victims of drunk driving related fatalities a guide on how to sponsor a roadside DWI Victim Memorial Sign. The type of roadway (and the agency in charge of that roadway) will determine which agency to contact. If you are unsure of who is in charge of the road, call the

Washington State Department of Transportation for the information.

### GUIDELINES

Signs can be installed if the driver causing the crash was convicted of vehicular homicide because of DWI under RCW 46.61.520(1)(a) or was fatally injured and shown to be DWI based on blood toxicology reports.

The person requesting the sign must be a family member or close family friend who has the family's permission to sponsor a sign.

### INTERSTATE ROADWAYS (i.e. I-5)

Memorial signs along interstate highways have not yet been allowed by the Federal Highway Administration. However, please contact the Washington State Department of Transportation to be sure that this status has not changed.

### STATE ROADWAYS (i.e. SR 512, 410)

#### CONTACT

Mr. Lloyd Ensley, Traffic Specialist  
Washington St. Dept. of Transportation  
PO Box 47344  
Olympia, WA 98504-7344  
Phone: (360) 705-7288

#### COST

Depends of type of roadway:

##### **Two-lane:**

\$200 per sign (one sign each direction)

##### **Four-lane :**

\$300 per sign (slightly larger signs)

### PROCESS

Contact, by phone or letter of request, the name above. Once the location of the incident is determined to be within the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Transportation, the request needs to be approved by the State Traffic Operations Office.

The standard sign features the words, **"Please Don't Drink and Drive"** below which is a plaque displaying the message **"In Memory Of"** along with the victim's name. They are placed near the scene of the collision.

A confirmation of the sign layout will be sent to the requester, together with a letter that acts as an agreement between the department and the requester.

Sign fabrication and installation will then be scheduled and notification given to the requester when the sign is scheduled to be installed. A bill will be sent to the requester after installation.

### WALLA WALLA CITY STREETS

#### CONTACT

Mr. Dean Abrams  
Senior Engineering Technician  
Public Works Department  
PO Box 478  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 527-4537

#### COST

Amount will be determined by "actual cost" of sign fabrication and installation. Please contact the City Engineering Department for further information.

### PROCESS

- Citizen makes contact with city.
- Information on DWI incident is confirmed as per state regulation.
- Sign location is identified and investigated.
- Template for sign is drafted.
- Citizen reviews sign template and approved location.
- Citizen pays for the sign.
- Sign is installed and maintained for a period of ten years. After ten years, the sign may be removed.

- After confirmation, the County will draft the sign template and submit it to requester for their review and confirmation. Upon receipt of confirmation, the County will order and install the signs.

## **WALLA WALLA COUNTY ROADWAYS**

### **CONTACT**

Mr. Tom Scott  
County Engineering Department  
PO Box 813, Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 527-3241

### **COST**

\$200 per sign (one sign each direction)

### **PROCESS**

- A written or telephone request needs to be made with the County's contact person named above.
- The County's contact person will work with requester to establish location of the incident and sign positioning. During that time, the County will give the requester a letter, which will serve as an agreement between parties. The requester returns agreement letter with payment for ordering and installing the sign.
- The County will confirm the incident through the appropriate law enforcement agency (required by state regulation).

# ***D.U.I. Victim Memorial Sign Program***

**PLEASE  
DON'T  
DRINK  
AND  
DRIVE**

**IN MEMORY OF  
INDIVIDUAL'S NAME**

***Walla Walla Traffic Safety***

***D.U.I. Task Force  
P.O. Box 1595***

***Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 527-3278***